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FLOOR DEBATE

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me support Senator Schrock's amendment that he was offering on LB 128 is if it was going to tear down the churches and then remove the rubble. I'd vote for that in a New York second. Well, I'm not going to oppose...not that it would make any difference, I'm not going to oppose him giving that money to these churches. I like a good fight, especially when I'm not in it, and from my reading of history there is no fight which is more bitter, more bloody, more violent than a fight among religious people. And if they're of the same religion you can really look for a fight. Look at Northern Ireland as an example. But when all these churches think they're going to get this money and there's a finite amount of money, this is an analogy that I'm going to bring back and apply it to us here in the Legislature, all these preachers, parsons and whatnots think that that money is going to be there for them and, when they come up to the trough to get theirs, they're going to be elbowed aside by the big churches, the ones that have the political clout, the ones that can help "Parson" Bush get back in the pulpit if he decides he wants to re-up again. And then some of these who have spoken so strongly in favor of the government giving the churches money are going to be the ones most vociferously complaining because they don't get any. They think it's a new source of free money and, you mark my words, there will be a battle royal as the churches, who are supposed to be setting an example of righteous conduct in living, begin to fight and tear at each other's throat in order to get this money. I cannot wait. I hope he does create that new position. This individual, who's going to be something like a cabinet member who is a liaison between the government and the churches, forget the constitution. If Teddy Roosevelt can say, damn the law, build the canal, "Parson" Bush can say, damn the constitution, feed the churches. Well, now, the churches are the ones who believe in miracles. When people were in the wilderness and had no food, a miracle was worked and manna came down from heaven. When there were people hungry listening to a preacher and they didn't think to bring any food, magic was worked again and they were given bread and fish. They worked miracles. Well, why should the government give money to the churches when the churches can work miracles and make their own money? It just shows the sham, the hypocrisy, the phoniness of it all. Now how does that apply to the Legislature? There is a